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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/477,725	01/05/2000	HIROKI MAEDA	DAIN-540	9638

7590 01/30/2002
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EXAMINER

VO, HAI

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1771	10

DATE MAILED: 01/30/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/477,725

Applicant(s)

MAEDA ET AL.

Examiner

Hai Vo

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM

THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed

- after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 December 2001.
 2b) This action is non-final.
 2a) This action is FINAL.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless —

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:
 - (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
3. Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Closs et al (US 5,429,770) substantially as set forth in Paper no. 7.
4. Claims 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Closs et al (US 5,429,770) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Hanna et al (US 6,224,787). With newly added claims 13-15, Closs is silent as to phenylnaphthalene as a liquid material. Hanna discloses 2-(4-octylphenyl)-6-dodecyloxynaphthalene as the liquid material (example 3). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated phenylnaphthalene liquid crystal into the gap of electrodes motivated by the desire to transport the electrons for utilization of light emission at the electrode interface.

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5. Claim 16 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Closs et al (US 5,429,770) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Eidenschink et al (US 4,490,305). Closs is silent as to 2-4'-heptyloxy-4'-octylbiphenyl and 4-heptyloxy-4'-dodecylbiphenyl. Eidenschink the liquid crystal material as claimed by the present invention (see Formula I wherein X is hydrogen and R1 is heptyloxy, R2 is octyl or dodecyl). See the obviousness rational in the paragraph no. 4.
6. Claims 17 and 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Closs et al (US 5,429,770) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Hanna et al (US 5,980,779). Hanna discloses 2-(4'-heptyloxyphenyl)-6-dodecylthiobenzothiazole as the liquid material (example c4). See the obviousness rational in the paragraph no. 4.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed 12/20/01 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
8. The art rejections over Closs are maintained because of the following reasons. Closs does teach the claimed information recording medium containing a liquid crystal material having charge transport properties to be varied according to a phase transfer between a plurality of stable liquid crystal phrases of the liquid crystal (column 6, line 22 et seq.). It is the examiner's position that Closs reference does lead the person of ordinary in the art to the claimed invention because Closs discloses a cell comprising two glass plated with a conductive coating of ITO

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wherein the photoconductive layer is arranged between the two ITO electrodes (column 5, lines 47-57 and example 9). The photoconductive layer comprises a liquid crystal material having the phase behavior (column 6, line 22 et seq.)

Conclusion

9. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hai Vo whose telephone number is (703) 605-4426. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday, 8:30 to 5:00 (EAST). If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Blaine Copenheaver can be reached on (703) 308-1261. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9310 for regular communications and (703) 872-9311 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

HV
January 22, 2002



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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700